

<LETTERHEAD or EMAIL>

<DATE>

Joe Grindstaff  
Acting Executive Officer  
Delta Stewardship Council  
Sacramento, CA  
(joe.grindstaff@deltacouncil.ca.gov)

Dear Mr. Grindstaff

We are writing to you today to solicit a letter of support for a new Department of Interior Climate Science Center to be established in the American Southwest. The purpose of the center is to provide science information, tools and techniques to assist decision makers in meeting the challenges associated with changes in climate in the 21<sup>st</sup> century<sup>1</sup>.

A group of institutions (U. Arizona, U. California Davis, UCLA, U Colorado, UNR-Desert Research Institute, Scripps) are preparing a proposal to compete for this new center. Given close relationship between the Delta Stewardship Council (or its CALFED predecessor) and several of these institutions (UC Davis, Scripps) during the recent past, we believe the new center will offer even more benefits for the Delta and opportunities for even more interactions in the future.

To successfully compete for this center, we are asked to provide letters of support from various collaborators. We are asking that you provide a letter to us stating that we are collaborating together and that you can envision working with this consortium of universities in the future on issues related to understanding climate change with respect to your mission.

A draft letter is attached below. In our experience, the more specific you can be, the more powerful the letter. This would include brief descriptions about our past collaborations including interactions with named individuals or programs, and your needs for climate information in the future.

We request that you get us this letter by June 14 (I apologize for the very rapid turn around); electronic copies are fine. We are happy to iterate with you on the letter.

Thank you for your time and efforts. We value our collaboration with you and look forward to continuing and expanding these efforts if we are successful in hosting this Climate Science Center.

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<sup>1</sup> See this for more information: <http://nccw.usgs.gov/documents/PressRelease05-05-10OCOFINAL-DOICSCCompetition.pdf>

Sincerely,

Jonathan Overpeck, University of Arizona

Lisa Graumlich, University of Arizona

Gregg Garfin, University of Arizona

Barbara Morehouse, University of Arizona

Glen MacDonald, UCLA

Mark Schwartz, UC-Davis\*\*

Alexander "Sasha" Gershunov\*\*, Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Kelly Redmond, UNR-Reno, Desert Research Institute

Tim Brown, UNR-Reno, Desert Research Institute

Brad Udall, University of Colorado

\*\* Special Note: DOI employees are prohibited from participating in this proposal.

Hence some familiar names (e.g., Dan Cayan and Mike Dettinger from Scripps and Tom Suchanek from UC-Davis) are not included. If we are successful, however, they will be a critical part of this effort.

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<feel free to edit in any way – this is just to get your ideas flowing..>

Re: DOI Southwest Climate Science Center

To Whom it May Concern:

We understand that Department of Interior plans to fund a Southwest Climate Science Center beginning in 2011. This center will be one of eight such centers in the United States and will provide scientific information, tools and techniques that land, water, wildlife and cultural resource managers and other interested parties can apply to anticipate, monitor and adapt to climate and ecologically-driven responses at regional-to-local scales.

This letter is written in strong support of the application being submitted by a broad consortium of universities including the UC-Davis, UCLA, University of Arizona, , Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the University of Nevada – Reno, and the University of Colorado.

The Delta Stewardship Council was created by legislation passed in 2009 in recognition that water has long been a contentious issue for California, with much of the last two decades spent arguing over the proper allocation and management of resources in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The Delta is both the largest estuary on the West Coast and hub of the State's major water systems. The council consists of seven members with diverse expertise providing a broad statewide perspective on water issues. Its immediate mission, among other tasks, is to develop and adopt a comprehensive management plan for the San Francisco Bay-Delta the Council to be a "responsible agency" and consult with the lead agencies in the development of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). Its mandate requires that the Council serve as an appellate body should parties disagree about the plan, or with a determination by the California Department of Fish and Game that BDCP meets the requirements of the Natural Communities Conservation Planning Act (NCCP). The Council recognizes that climate change is a complex problem that will be a major consideration affecting the future of Bay-Delta water issues. A climate center with strong connections to the Council could be of great benefit to accomplishing the immediate and long-term missions of the Council and managing water issues in the Delta, in general.

The Bay-Delta Stewardship Council, and its predecessor institutions (CALFED), have been involved with universities in this consortium for at least the last decade (since the ROD establishing CALFED was signed). For example, collaborations between CALFED and the Center for Watershed Science have involved many basic scientific of floodplain habitat issues, fish screens and their effectiveness, delta levees and factors affecting the success of native fishes. Collaborations with scientists from Scripps established some of the basic principles defining how we expect climate change to affect water availability in this watershed. Faculty from both Davis and Scripps have long served as independent technical advisors on water issues that are now under the purview of the Delta Stewardship Council. The Council also supports, in collaboration with the Center for Watershed Science, the electronic journal *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science*, a major source of communication for the region's technical and policy communities.

These very positive interactions set a precedent for what we would expect would be a strong and fruitful relationship between the Council and the consortium proposed here. The challenges the Council faces in designing future water policies for the Delta demand constantly improving scientific understanding and advice on climate change, among many other issues. A climate center located in our region and composed of institutions with which we have established linkages could be crucial to meeting these challenges.

Because the Southwest Climate Science Center will be critically important to meet our climate information needs, we applaud DOI for establishing these entities. We anticipate working with this consortium in the future on climate-related studies; especially those most relevant to our co-equal goals of improving water supply reliability and ecological integrity in the Delta.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Name

Title